Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

The present invention relates to a process for synthesizing or amplifying efficiently a nucleic acid comprising a target nucleic acid sequence. The process involves providing a primer comprising in its 3'-end portion a sequence (Ac') which hybridizes a sequence (A) in the 3'-end portion of the target nucleic acid sequence, and in the 5'-side of the sequence (Ac') a sequence (B') which hybridizes the complementary sequence (Bc) of a sequence (B) positioned in the 5'-side of the sequence (A) on the target nucleic acid sequence, wherein $\{X - (Y - Y')\}/X$ is in the range of -1.00 to 1.00, in which X denotes the number of bases in the sequence (Ac'), Y denotes the number of bases in the region flanked by the sequences (A) and (B) in the target nucleic acid sequence, and Y' denotes the number of bases in an intervening sequence between the sequences (Ac') and (B') (Y' may be zero).